

Claim Amendments:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20 (cancelled).

21. (currently amended) A system for determining at least one aspect of a biological fluid, said system comprising:
- (a) a test strip meter having an entrance for receiving a test strip;
 - (b) at least one test strip comprising a sample port, a channel, a measurement area, and a compressible bladder for creating a suction force to draw a biological fluid sample through the channel from the sample port to the measurement area;
 - (c) a test strip holder for use with said meter and configured for receiving said at least one test strip, said test strip holder comprising a support for receiving said at least one test strip and a lip extending toward the support and that can at least partially surround the measurement area of said at least one test strip for forming a liquid seal along the lip with a first surface of said at least one test strip when said test strip is received within said test strip holder, wherein the lip and the support define an opening therebetween; and
 - (d) a bladder actuator for compressing the bladder of the at least one test strip when said test strip is received in said test strip holder.
22. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said biological fluid is blood.
23. (previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein said at least one aspect is a measurement of clotting time of said blood.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said lip is configured to at least partially encompass a sample application region of said at least one test strip when said at least one test strip is received within said test strip holder.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said test strip holder further comprises a raised bump that contacts the bottom surface of said at least one test strip when said at least one test strip is received within said test strip holder.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said at least one test strip holder further comprises a raised bump that contacts a second surface of said at least one test strip when said at least one test strip is received within said test strip holder.

27. (previously presented) The system of claim 26, wherein said lip and said raised bump apply forces to said first and second surface of said at least one test strip that are substantially equal and opposite in direction to each other.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein said forces range from about 0.1 lbs. to about 0.05 lbs.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said test strip holder is readily removable from said meter.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said test strip holder is permanently affixed to said meter.

31. (currently amended) A method of determining at least one aspect of a biological sample, said method comprising:

- (a) inserting a test strip into a test strip holder present in a meter to ~~provide~~ press first and second portions of the test strip holder with substantially equal and opposing forces to first and second surfaces of said test strip to form a liquid seal

between the test strip holder and the test strip, wherein said test strip comprises a sample port, a channel, a measurement area, and a compressible bladder;

- (b) compressing the bladder of said test strip;
- (c) applying said biological sample to said test strip;
- (d) releasing at least a portion of the compression on the bladder of said test strip to create a suction force to draw said biological sample through the channel from the sample port to the measurement area; and
- (e) determining at least one aspect of said biological sample.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said biological sample is blood.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said at least one aspect is clotting time of said blood.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said test strip holder is readily removable from said meter and said method further comprises removing said test strip holder from said meter.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said substantially equal and opposing forces to first and second surfaces of said test strip range from about 0.1 lbs. to about 0.05 lbs.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said substantially equal and opposing forces to first and second surfaces of said test strip are applied by a lip and a raised bump of said test strip holder.